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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/801,779	03/09/2001	Atsushi Misawa	Q63489	5542
7590	07/19/2004		EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20037-3213			JELINEK, BRIAN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2615	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/801,779	MISAWA, ATSUSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brian Jelinek	2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8,13,14 and 16-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 9-12, and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 March 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

This is a first office action in response to application no. 09/801,779 filed on 3/9/2001 in which claims 1-23 are presented for examination.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 2000-065309, filed on 3/9/2000.

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed

Claim Objections

Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 14 recites the limitation "said first lens section and said second lens section to protect said first and second lens sections, respectively" in lines 15-17 of the claim. It is not clear how a lens section protects a lens section. Appropriate correction is required

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 13, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Swayze (U.S. Pat. No. 5,115,265).

Regarding claim 1, Swayze shows an image capturing apparatus, comprising: a body having a front face, a back face, and a side face provided between a front face and a back face (Fig. 1); a lens section, provided on a body, operable to form an image (Fig. 1, element 19; col. 2, line 20); and a lens barrier operable to cover a front face, a back face and a side face of a body (Fig. 1, elements 3 and 5) and to pivotally move around an axis substantially parallel to an optical axis of a lens section (Fig. 1, elements 23 and 31).

Regarding claim 2, Swayze teaches a lens barrier has a grip for a hand of a user to be placed during image capturing (Fig. 1, element 39 and 41; col. 2, lines 42-45).

Regarding claim 3, Swayze teaches a lens barrier pivotally moves around an axis generally proximate to a center of a body and is capable of stopping on a right side or a left side of a body (Fig. 1, elements 23 and 31; Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 5, Swayze teaches a body includes an arc-shaped portion, and a lens barrier pivotally moves along the arc-shaped portion (Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 6, Swayze teaches a body is arranged to have a substantially cylindrical shape in which a front face and a back face are circular (Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 7, Swayze teaches a lens barrier pivotally moves around an axis generally proximate to a center of a body and is capable of stopping on a right side or a left side of a body (see 102 rejection of claim 3).

Regarding claims 13, Swayze shows a lens barrier is removable from a body (Fig. 1, elements 29 and 37; col. 2, lines 26 and 31).

Regarding claim 20, Swayze shows a body has an outer periphery, and wherein an axis of a lens barrier is positioned at an outer periphery of the body (Fig. 1; Fig. 1, elements 23 and 31).

Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yan (U.S. Pat. No. 4,451,130).

Regarding claim 21, Yan teaches an image capturing apparatus, comprising: a body having a front face (Fig. 2, side facing reader), a back face (Fig. 2, side hidden from reader), and a side face (Fig. 2, side on the right) provided between the front face and the back face; an image forming lens section provided on a body (Fig. 2, element 5; col. 3, lines 20-21), an image forming lens section having an optical axis (col. 3, lines 23-24); and a cover member having a first section (Fig. 2, element 2C), a second section (Fig. 2, element 2E), and a third section arranged (Fig. 2, element 2) to face a front face, a back face and a side face of a body, respectively, a cover member being supported by a body on an axis extending substantially in parallel with an optical axis of an image forming lens section (Fig. 2, element 3; col. 3, lines 6-9).

Regarding claim 22, Yan shows a second section (back face) of a cover member includes an arc-shaped portion (Fig. 3A, arc in upper right of element 2).

Regarding claim 23, Yan shows a body has an outer periphery, and wherein an axis of a cover is positioned at an outer periphery of said body (Fig. 2, element 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swayze (U.S. Pat. No. 5,115,265) in view of Toyofuku (U.S. Pat. No. 6,166,765).

Regarding claim 4, Swayze shows a camera with a lens barrier capable of being moved to a closed position covering a lens (Fig. 2); and also to an open position exposing a lens when the lens barrier is stopped on a right side and a left side of a body (Fig.4). Swayze does not teach that a camera mode can be switched on the basis of the position of the lens barrier.

Toyofuku teaches providing a switch to responsive to an open or closed position of a lens barrier (col. 3, lines 44-48; Fig. 1, element 52 and 65). Furthermore, Toyofuku teaches the switch is capable of selecting a mode to change a first operation mode (col. 3, lines 51-60) to a second operation mode (col. 3, line 61-col.4, line 4) in accordance

with a position of a lens barrier, the operation modes include at least a capture mode in which a lens section is exposed (col. 3, lines 51-60) and a non-capture mode in which a lens section is covered by a lens barrier (col. 3, line 61-col.4, line 4).

It is clear that providing the barrier switch of Toyofuku would improve the image capturing apparatus of Swayze by automatically switching a photographing mode, thus making the apparatus more user-friendly by eliminating the need for a user to manually select a photographing mode (col. 1, lines 21-40). One of ordinary skill in the art would have provided the barrier switch of Toyofuku in order to automate basic imaging apparatus functions. As a result, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the barrier switch of Toyofuku with the imaging apparatus of Swayze for the purpose of automating basic imaging apparatus functions, and making the imaging apparatus more user-friendly by eliminating the need for a user to manually select a photographing mode.

Regarding claim 8, please see the 102 rejections of claims 1, 3, and 5; and the 103 rejection of claim 4.

Claim 14, 16-17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swayze (U.S. Pat. No. 5,115,265) in view of Herzfeld (U.S. Pat. No. 2,725,804).

Regarding claim 14, Swayze teaches an image capturing apparatus, comprising: a body having a front face and a back face, a side face provided between the front face and the back face (Fig. 1); first and second lens barriers, provided on the body (Fig. 1, elements 3 and 5) wherein first and second lens barriers cover at least parts of the front

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face, the back face and the side face (Fig. 2), and are pivotally movable, independently of each other, around corresponding axes which are substantially parallel to respective optical axes (Fig. 1, elements 23 and 31) of a lens section operable to converge an image (col. 2, lines 20). Swayze does not teach a first and second lens sections.

Herzfeld teaches a first and second lens barriers (Fig. 1, elements 20 and 22), provided on a body (Fig. 1, element 10), operable to protect a first and second lens sections (Fig. 1, element 16, #1 and #2; col. 2, lines 24-25) , respectively, wherein said first and second lens sections are substantially parallel to each other (Fig. 1).

Stereoscopic imaging apparatuses are well known in the art that allow a user to image a three dimensional scene. One skilled in the art would have provided a mono imaging apparatus with multiple lenses in order to record simultaneous images capable of being combined into a three dimensional image. As a result, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the mono image capturing apparatus of Swayze with the first and second lenses of Herzfeld in order to allow stereo image capture of a scene in three dimensions.

Regarding claim 16, Swayze does not teach a first and second lens sections are operable to capture two images simultaneously, an image capturing apparatus has operation modes including at least a single-image capture mode, in which only one image is captured, and a double-image capture mode in which two images are simultaneously captured, and the single-image capture mode is set when only the first lens section is exposed and the double-image capture mode is set when both the first and second lens sections are exposed.

Herzfeld teaches a first and second lens sections (Fig. 1, elements 20 and 22), are operable to capture two images simultaneously, an image capturing apparatus has operation modes including at least a single-image capture mode, in which only one image is captured, and a double-image capture mode in which two images are simultaneously captured, and the single-image capture mode is set when only the first lens section is exposed and the double-image capture mode is set when both the first and second lens sections are exposed (col. 1, lines 15-28; col. 2, lines 61-66).

Stereoscopic imaging apparatuses are well known in the art that allow a user to image a three dimensional scene. One skilled in the art would have provided a mono imaging apparatus with multiple lenses in order to record simultaneous images capable of being combined into a three dimensional image. As a result, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the mono image capturing apparatus of Swayze with the first and second lenses of Herzfeld in order to allow stereo image capture of a scene in three dimensions.

Regarding claim 17, Swayze does not teach a first and second lens sections are operable to capture a stereoscopic image in the double-image capture mode.

Herzfeld teaches a first and second lens sections are operable to capture a stereoscopic image in a double-image capture mode (col. 2, lines 61-66).

Stereoscopic imaging apparatuses are well known in the art that allow a user to image a three dimensional scene. One skilled in the art would have provided a mono imaging apparatus with multiple lenses in order to record simultaneous images capable of being combined into a three dimensional image. As a result, it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the mono image capturing apparatus of Swayze with the first and second lenses of Herzfeld in order to allow stereo image capture of a scene in three dimensions.

Regarding claim 19, Swayze shows a first and second lens barriers are removable from a body (Fig. 1, elements 29 and 37; col. 2, lines 26 and 31).

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swayze (U.S. Pat. No. 5,115,265), in view of Herzfeld (U.S. Pat. No. 2,725,804), and further in view of Palm et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,414,709).

Regarding claim 18, neither Swayze nor Herzfeld teach a first and second lens sections are capable of capturing images with different zooming power.

However, Palm et al. teaches a first and second lens sections are operable to capture two images with different zooming power in a double-image capture mode (col. 8, lines 6-23). It is extremely well known in the art to provide a 2-D camera with a zoom lens. It is clear that providing the stereo camera of Herzfeld with the zooming means of Palm et al. would improve the camera by allowing a user to image distant objects more closely. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to configure the stereo camera of Herzfeld with the zooming capability of Palm et al. to allow a user to take close-up images of far away objects.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-12, and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 9, the reason for allowance is as follows: the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a lens barrier including legs provided on a face thereof covering a side face of a body, and legs support an image capturing apparatus when legs are positioned on a bottom side of the body.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 9.

Regarding claim 12, the reason for allowance is as follows: the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a lens barrier includes an opening operable to expose a connection part operable to connect an image capturing apparatus to external equipment.

Regarding claim 15, the reason for allowance is as follows: the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest an image capturing apparatus wherein a front face and a back face of a body have generally heart-like shapes.

Conclusion

]Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Jelinek whose telephone number is (703) 305-4724. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brian Jelinek
7/9/2004



ANDREW CHRISTENSEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600